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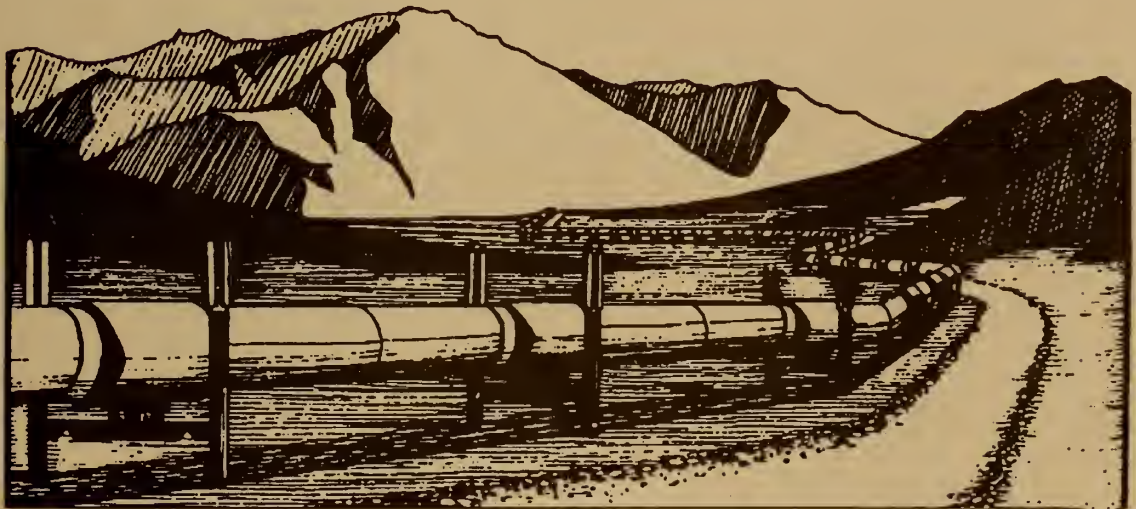


Arctic District
Fairbanks, Alaska

November 1991

Dalton Highway Recreation Area Management Plan

Summary



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The Bureau Mission

The Bureau of Land Management is responsible for the stewardship of our public lands. It is committed to manage, protect, and improve these lands in a manner to serve the needs of the American people for all times.

Management is based on the principles of multiple use and sustained yield of our nation's resources within a framework of environmental responsibility and scientific technology.

These resources include recreation, range, timber, minerals, watershed, fish and wildlife, wilderness, air, scenic, scientific and cultural values.

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Dalton Highway Recreation Area Management Plan

Summary

prepared by:

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November 1991

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Dalton Highway Recreation Area Management Plan

Background

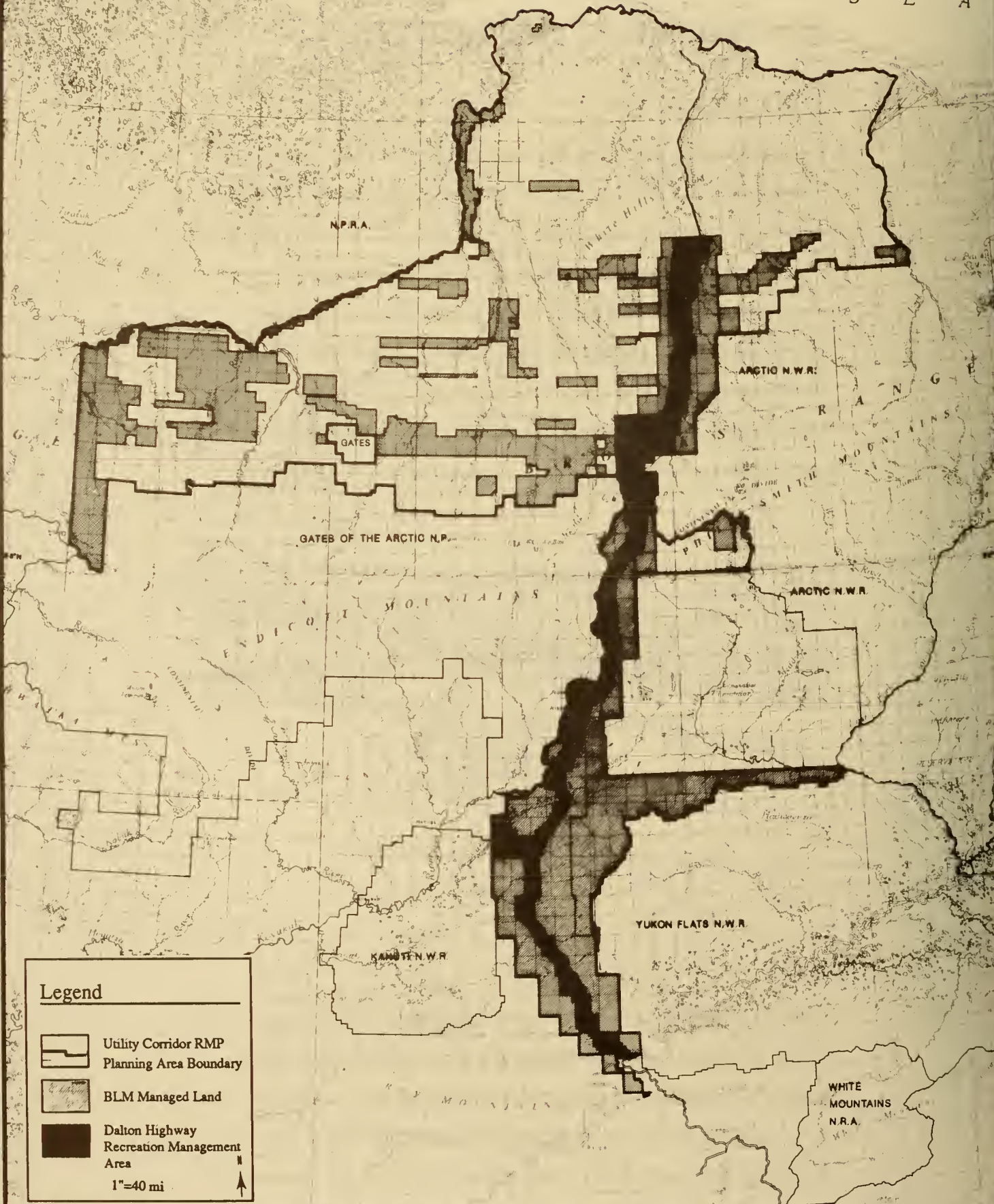
The Dalton Highway Recreation Area Management Plan is a direct descendant of the Utility Corridor Resource Management Plan (RMP), completed in January 1991. The Utility Corridor RMP, a *general* land use plan, recognized a need for more detailed and specific planning for recreation along the Dalton Highway. To facilitate this recreation-specific planning, or *activity planning*, the RMP established five recreation management areas, one of which is the Dalton Highway Recreation Management Area (see page 3). The RMP placed a very high priority on completion of a recreation activity management plan for this area.



** Note: The Utility Corridor RMP addressed many issues, including recreation, mineral development and state selection of lands. The RMP planning area included not only the Utility Corridor, but many other lands north of the Yukon River, including the Central Arctic Management Area and the Venetie Block. The total RMP planning area included 6.1 million acres of BLM-managed land.*

B E A U F O R T

S E A



Legend

- Utility Corridor RMP
- Planning Area Boundary
- BLM Managed Land
- Dalton Highway Recreation Management Area

1"=40 mi



Dalton Highway Recreation Management Area

Recreation Planning Area

The Dalton Highway Recreation Area Management Plan (RAMP) addresses approximately 1.1 million acres of public land within the Utility Corridor. It does not cover all Utility Corridor lands--only those corridor lands closest to existing roads, including the Dalton Highway, the Bettles winter road, the Tramway Bar (mining) road and the Wiseman-Nolan-Hammond roads.

A Need to Plan

Since 1981, much of this area has been accessible to anyone with a car or motorhome. While recreational activity along the Dalton Highway is still relatively light, it is significant and it is increasing. Although there is little data on visitor use, BLM recreation planners in the corridor area estimate that approximately 11,000 visitors arrive by privately owned vehicle and approximately 5,400 visitors travel through as part of commercial tour groups between June and September each year. These figures are expected to triple in the next 10 years if the road north of Disaster Creek (mile 211 Dalton Highway) is opened to public travel.

Existing tourist facilities are few and far between along the Dalton Highway. To accommodate current and future recreational demands, ensure visitor safety, manage the resources and protect the integrity of the

energy transportation corridor, BLM needs to identify not only appropriate management objectives, policies and actions, but future staffing and funding requirements.



Management Objectives

Using BLM's Recreation Opportunity Spectrum classifications, the Dalton Highway Recreation Management Area has been divided into four management zones, each with a different management objective or strategy. The zones are defined on page 9.



Arctic Coastal Plain Overlook

Sagwon Bluffs Overlook

Happy Valley MRS*

Ice Cut Interpretive Site

Slope Mountain Overlook

Toolik Lake Overlook

Galbraith Lake MRS*

Atigun Valley Overlook

Spike Camp Creek Wayside

Chandalar Shelf Overlook

Upper Dietrich River Wayside

Nutirvik Creek Trailhead

Arctic Loon Ponds Overlook

Trishak River

Happy Valley

Happy River

Happy River

Happy River

Happy River

Happy River

Happy River

Galbraith Lake

Galbraith Lake

Galbraith Lake

Galbraith Lake

Galbraith Lake

Galbraith Lake

Galbraith Lake

Galbraith Lake

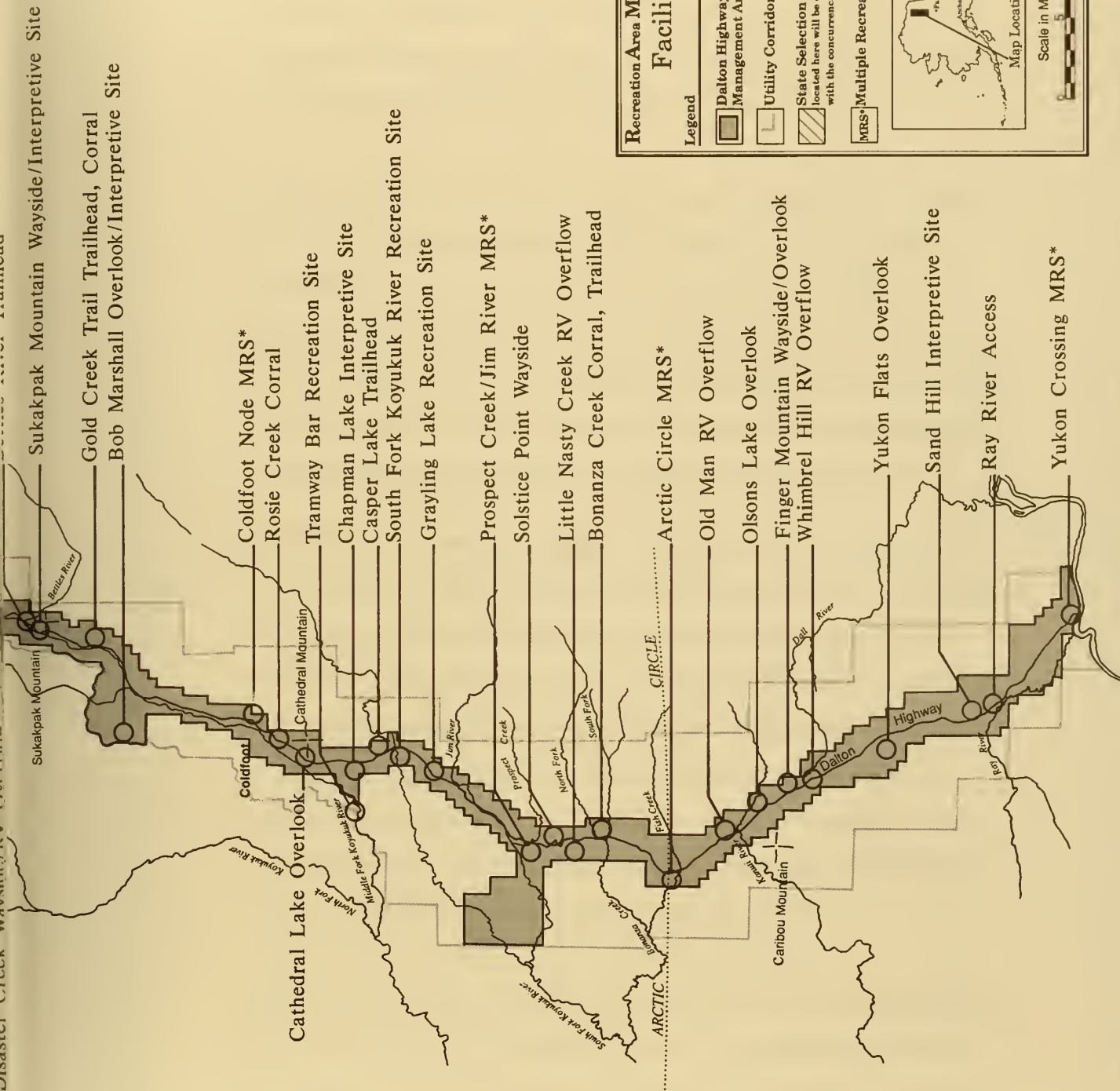
North Slope Borough Boundary

68°

68°

Snowden Mountain

Snowden Mountain



Recreation Opportunity Spectrum Classifications

Rural: This classification includes the four areas identified by the Utility Corridor RMP as development nodes. The nodes are located at Yukon Crossing, Coldfoot, Chandalar Shelf and Happy Valley. A high degree of recreational development will be allowed in these areas. Development will include visitor centers, campgrounds, dump stations and commercial operations providing lodging, RV hookups, food, auto repair, etc.

Roaded Modified: These areas are characterized by a significant modification of the landscape and include former construction camps, existing pump stations and areas of extensive mining activity. In some of these areas, recreation activity and new development is considered inappropriate. In others, such as within the *roaded modified* area near Prospect Creek, a campground is proposed. Large-scale recreational development, such as campgrounds, will be limited to as *roaded modified* and *rural areas*.

Roaded Natural: This area generally includes lands within a half-mile either side of the Dalton Highway, the Bettles winter road, the Tramway Bar (mining) road and the Wiseman- Nolan-Hammond roads. The area's boundaries vary from the half-mile standard where necessary according to terrain and resultant viewshed. Within this zone, limited recreational facilities will be provided, including overlooks, waysides, small picnic areas and horse corrals. BLM will strive to maintain a generally natural environment while protecting the corridor's primary function of being a transportation corridor for energy materials.

Semi-Primitive Motorized: These lands are generally more than a half-mile from improved roads and are characterized by an essentially unmodified environment. Facility development will be limited to marking and occasional clearing (or other minor improvement) of existing trails, and possible rehabilitation of existing cabins that are in trespass on public lands.

Proposed Facilities and Construction Schedule

Several factors were considered in developing an implementation schedule for facility construction. Among the considerations were: the issue(s) to be addressed by the proposal (safety was considered a high priority), current and projected user demand, project cost, available staffing and site location. Another factor that would be considered prior to construction would be the status of the Dalton Highway for public travel. Construction of certain facilities will not occur if the northern part of the road remains closed. Construction of facilities north of Toolik Lake, on lands to be opened to state selection under the Utility Corridor RMP, will occur only if the state concurs and appropriate agreements are reached. Lands that will be opened to state selection at Coldfoot will not include lands identified by the BLM as necessary for facility development.

BLM's Arctic District has proposed the following facility construction schedule for the Dalton Highway Recreation Management Area, however, implementation could be affected by any of several factors discussed above.

Note: Facility construction and implementation of all aspects of the proposed plan are dependent on adequate funding. If such funding is not available, implementation schedules will be adjusted accordingly.



Construction

Phase 1

Phase 1 Construction (first 3 years):

Yukon Crossing:

Temporary Visitor Contact Station *

Dump station

RV Overflow *

Yukon Flats Overlook

Whimbrel Hill RV Overflow *

Finger Mountain:

Wayside

Interpretive Site

Old Man Camp RV Overflow *

Arctic Circle:

Wayside/Interpretive Site *

Campground

RV Overflow *

Little Nasty Creek RV Overflow *

Solstice Point Wayside/Interpretive Site *

Prospect Creek/Jim River RV Overflow *

South Fork Koyukuk Recreation Site (sanitation and litter only) *

Cathedral Lake Overlook

Rosie Creek Corral

Coldfoot:

Marion Creek Campground

Dump Station *

Administrative Site

Trailhead

RV Overflow *

Sukakpak Mountain Wayside/Interpretive Site *

Disaster Creek RV Overflow *

Upper Dietrich River Wayside

Spike Camp Creek Wayside

Atigun Valley Overlook

Galbraith Lake:

Visitor Contact Station

Wayside *

RV Overflow *

Toolik Lake Overlook

Happy Valley RV Overflow **

* Denotes projects to be completed for Rendezvous '92, the year-long celebration of the 50th anniversary of the completion of the Alaska Highway in 1942.

** Denotes sites on land available for state selection (no development without state concurrence)

Construction Phases 2 and 3

Phase 2 Construction (years 4 - 6):

Yukon Crossing:

- Permanent Visitor Center
- Campground
- River Parking
- Administrative Site

Ray River Access

Bonanza Creek:

- Trailhead and Corral
- Cabin

Prospect Creek Campground

Grayling Lake Recreation Site

South Fork Koyukuk Recreation Site

Chapman Lake Interpretive Site

Tramway Bar Recreation Site

Coldfoot:

- Visitor Center
- River Access

Bob Marshall Interpretive Site

Gold Creek Trailhead

Disaster Creek Wayside

Arctic Loon Ponds Overlook

Chandalar Shelf Overlook

Galbraith Lake Campground

Slope Mountain Overlook**

Happy Valley:**

- Administrative Site**
- Wayside**

Phase 3 Construction (years 7 - 10):

Sand Hill Interpretive Site

Olsons Lake Interpretive Site

Casper Lake Trailhead

Bettles River Trailhead

Nutirwik Creek Trailhead

Galbraith Lake:

- Corral
- Trailhead

Ice Cut Interpretive Site**

Sagwon Bluffs Overlook**

Arctic Coastal Plain Overlook**

Project Planning

All facility development will require a project plan. Project planning involves a site-specific analysis and evaluation of the proposed development. This will result in a last refinement of the proposal, including a final determination of use areas, facilities and services required. It is during project planning that design parameters will be established, site limitations and project-specific mitigation identified, and an environmental assessment completed. State, borough, other federal agency, and industry involvement is critical at this stage. Through various agreements with each of these parties, BLM hopes to establish appropriate contact points and procedures to facilitate this phase of planning.

Project planning is followed by project survey, design and construction.

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Facility Development

Site Name or Location	Mile post	Primary Issues ¹ Addressed	Type of Development	R/T ²	Primary Activities ³ Possible	Phase ⁴
Yukon Crossing Node (includes 60 Mile site)	56 to 60	All	visitor contact station, dump station, campground, river access, administrative site, RV overflow area	R/T	camping, fishing, boating, hiking, picnicking, hunting, interpretive sightseeing	1 & 2
Ray River	70	RO	river access	-	floatboating, fishing, hiking, hunting	2
Sand Hill	73	I	interpretive site	-	interpretive sightseeing	3
Yukon Flats	86	I	overlook	-	interpretive sightseeing	1
Whimbrel Hill	94	RP	RV overflow	-	overflow camping	1
Finger Mountain	98	H&S, I	wayside, overlook	R/T	interpretive sightseeing, hiking	1
Olsons Lake	103	I	overlook	T	interpretive sightseeing, hiking	3
Old Man Camp	107	RP	RV overflow	-	overflow camping	1
Arctic Circle	115	All	campground, wayside, RV overflow, interpretive site	R/T	camping, hiking, interpretive sightseeing, picnicking	1
Bonanza Creek	124	RP, RO	corral, trailhead, cabin	R/T	hunting, hiking, fishing, floatboating, camping	2
Little Nasty Creek	129	RP	RV overflow	-	overflow camping	1
Solstice Point	132	H&S, I	wayside	R/T	interpretive sightseeing, off-road vehicles	1
Prospect Creek/ Jim River	135	RP, RO	campground, RV overflow	R/T	camping, fishing, hunting, hiking, floatboating, interpretive sightseeing, picnicking	1 & 2
Grayling Lake	150	RO	lake access, dock	T	floatplane access, picnicking	2
South Fork Koyukuk River	156	RP	recreation site	R/T	fishing, hunting, hiking, floatboating, recreational mining	1 & 2
Casper Lake	158	RO	trailhead, cabin	T	fishing, hiking, hunting	3
Chapman lake	161	RP, I	interpretive site	T	fishing, hiking, picnicking	2
Tramway Bar	161	RO	river access, recreation site	T	floatboating, fishing, hunting, picnicking	2
Cathedral Lake	165	I	overlook	-	interpretive sightseeing	1
Rosie Creek	173	RP	corral	T	horseback riding, hunting	1
Bob Marshall	187	I	overlook	T	interpretive sightseeing	2
Coldfoot Node (includes Marion Creek)	175 to 180	All	visitor contact facility, administrative site, campground, river access, trailhead, RV overflow, dump station	R/T	camping, interpretive sightseeing, floatboating, fishing, hiking, hunting, picnicking, dog mushing	1 & 2

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Dalton Highway Recreation
Area management plan

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Site Name or Location	Mile post	Primary Issues ¹ Addressed	Type of Development	R/T ²	Primary Activities ³ Possible	Phase ⁴
Gold Creek Trail	197	RP, RO	trailhead, corral	T	off-road vehicles, hiking, horseback riding, hunting, recreational mining	2
Sukapak Mountain	204	H&S, I	wayside, interpretive site	R/T	interpretive sightseeing	1
Bettles River	207	RO	trailhead, river access	-	fishing, hiking, hunting, floatboating, recreational mining	3
Disaster Creek	211	RP	wayside, RV overflow	R/T	rest area, turnaround	1 & 2
Arctic Loons Ponds	215	I	overlook	T	interpretive sightseeing	2
Nutirwik Creek	227	RO	trailhead	T	hiking	3
Upper Dietrich River	235	H&S	wayside	R/T	rest area	1
Chandalar Shelf	237	I	overlook	-	interpretive sightseeing	2
Spike Camp Creek	250	H&S	wayside	R/T	interpretive sightseeing, rest area	1
Atigun Valley	261	I	overlook	-	interpretive sightseeing	1
Galbraith Lake	275	All	campground, wayside, corral, trailhead, RV overflow	R/T	camping, hiking, interpretive sightseeing, picnicking	1 & 2
Toolik Lake	286	I	overlook	-	interpretive sightseeing	1
<i>Slope Mountain</i>	301	I	overlook	T	interpretive sightseeing	2
<i>Ice Cut</i>	325	I	interpretive site	-	interpretive sightseeing	3
<i>Happy Valley Node</i>	334	H&S, RP	wayside, RV overflow, administrative site	R/T	rest area, overflow camping	1 & 2
<i>Sagwon Bluffs</i>	344	I	overlook	-	interpretive sightseeing	3
<i>Coastal Plain</i>	354	I	overlook	T	interpretive sightseeing	3

NOTE: Sites indicated in italics are on lands to be available to state selection; further planning and development will not proceed without state concurrence.

¹ Issues:

- H&S: Visitor Health, Safety and Basic Services
- RP: Resource Protection
- RO: Developed Recreation Opportunity
- I: Information and Interpretation

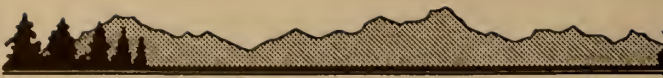
² R/T: Indicates presence of restrooms (R) and/or trash (T) receptacles

³ Primary activities best suited for this area. (At present, snowmachining opportunities are restricted by State law, thus it is not listed. Snowmachining will be an opportunity at many locations if restrictions are lifted.)

⁴ Phase indicates when construction is to *begin* (assuming funding is available). At sites where many facilities are proposed with different development schedules, more than one phase may be indicated. Phases indicated are:

- 1: First phase construction, to begin in first 3 years;
- 2: Second phase construction, to begin in years 4 through 6;
- 3: Third phase construction, to begin in year 7 or later.

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